

# people IN HISTORY

## Dictators of WWII

### Need to Know

**What is a dictator?** A leader with total power. These leaders use forceful military power to get what they want. Dictators usually lose their power only when someone throws them out or kills them or they die.

### What is communism?

A system where the government owns and is in charge of businesses. Everyone works, and the money is split equally between everyone.

**What is fascism?** A political system in which the importance of the government is placed above the well-being of citizens. Leaders try to take away rights of citizens to gain power for the government. Some freedoms such as speech, expression, and religion might be taken away.

### Joseph Stalin

#### COUNTRY OF RULE:

Soviet Union

#### ALLIANCE DURING WWII:

Allied Powers

#### POLITICAL APPROACH:

Communism

#### PRE-POLITICS DREAM JOB:

Priest



Joseph was the dictator of the Soviet Union from 1929 to 1953. His real last name was Djugasvili. But, when he was put in jail for crimes he committed, he earned the name Stalin. Stalin means "Man of Steel." He lived up to the name in later life. When Stalin became dictator, the Soviet Union was a poor and weak country. He turned it into a superpower. He did this using really harsh methods, and many people died while he was in power. His "Great Purges" killed or put into prison anybody who didn't agree with him.

In 1939, Stalin made a deal with Hitler to work together. However, Hitler broke his promise and invaded the Soviet Union. So, the two became enemies. Stalin then started to work with the Allied Powers. He used the strength of his country that he had built up before the war. His army became the most powerful in the

world. Stalin's Red Army fought hard against the Germans. Almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the entire Soviet Union population died during the battles of WWII. Even though Stalin's way of doing things was cruel, the Soviet Union was probably only able to beat Germany because of the strength Stalin had built up.

### Benito Mussolini

#### COUNTRY OF RULE:

Italy

#### ALLIANCE DURING WWII:

Axis Powers

#### POLITICAL APPROACH:

Fascism

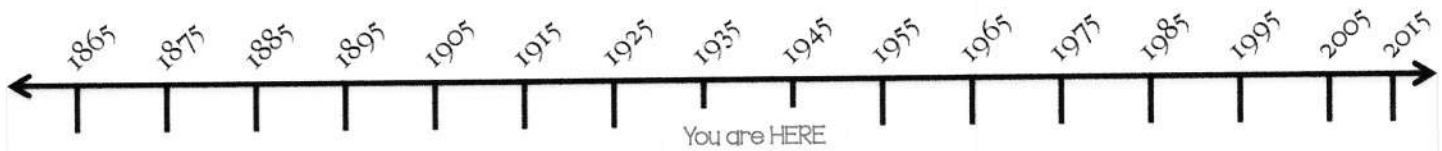
#### PRE-POLITICS DREAM JOB:

Journalist



Benito was drafted into the Italian army during WWI. After the war, he helped come up with the idea of fascism. Italy was having a hard time during the world's great depression, so Mussolini stepped up with his new political party of fascism. He made himself dictator. He wanted to make Italy a great world power. Mussolini made a deal with Germany. After that, he brought anti-Jewish laws to Italy.

the sweetest thing



Italy's army wasn't very strong, so it lost a lot of fights. Mussolini tried to ask Hitler to make peace with Great Britain and America. Hitler would not listen. In July 1943, Mussolini was overthrown by other Italians who didn't like the thought of making peace. Hitler saved Mussolini and used his help with the German troops that were still in Italy. In September, Italy signed a peace agreement with the Allies. As the Allies ran Germany out of Italy, Mussolini had to run away to Switzerland. He was caught and shot on April 28, 1945.

## Hirohito

**COUNTRY OF RULE:**

Japan

**ALLIANCE DURING WWII:**

Axis Powers

**POLITICAL APPROACH:**

Monarchy

**PRE-POLITICS DREAM JOB:**

Marine Biology



People do not really know how much Hirohito was involved in the fighting of WWII. Some people think that he didn't have much power because he was the emperor. Other people think he did make some military decisions for Japan during WWII.

When Hirohito's dad died, he became emperor. At this time, Japan's military started to take over the government. The military started to get really aggressive and harsh. Japan got involved with World War II when they bombed Pearl Harbor. Later, after the U.S. dropped the atomic bombs, Hirohito was the one to announce the end of the war to the world.

## Adolf Hitler

**COUNTRY OF RULE:**

Germany

**ALLIANCE DURING WWII:**

Axis Powers

**POLITICAL APPROACH:**

Nazism (form of fascism)

**PRE-POLITICS DREAM JOB:**

Art School



Adolf Hitler was in the German army during WWI, even though he was an Austrian citizen. He fought on the front lines and won bravery medals. After the war, he was very mad that the world blamed everything on Germany. This made him really want to stand up for his country Germany. He started working for the government. Hitler became famous for his love of Germany and for the ideas he had about how to help the country get more powerful.

The Great Depression soon hit the world and everyone was desperate. In 1932, Hitler ran for chancellor (leader of Germany) and won because he promised to bring Germany to the top of the world. In 1933, he made everyone in the country support the Nazi party. Hitler quit the League of Nations and started building up the size of his army.

In 1939, Hitler invaded Poland and started WWII. He joined the Axis Powers with Italy and Japan. After the attack at Pearl Harbor, the U.S. joined the war. Hitler knew he was fighting three of the most powerful nations in the world. Hitler saw that he would lose soon. So, he killed himself with his wife the day after their wedding.

# student's guide to RESPONDING

*Make yourself sound like an expert!*

**A** Answer the question. Start your answer with part of the question.

**P** Proof. State evidence directly from the text that supports your answer.

**E** Explain the proof you quoted from the text.  
Explain how this proof supports your answer to the question.

Example:

Question: What is the main ingredient in penicillin?

**A** → The main ingredient in penicillin is...

**P** → mold.

**E** → U.S. companies made large amounts of this mold and sent it to England.

Complete answer using A.P.E. :

The main ingredient in penicillin is mold. U.S. companies made large amounts of this mold and sent it to England during WWII.

Name:

Period

Date:

## **Dictators of World War II**

### ***Define:***

1. A dictator:

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2. Communism:

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3. Fascism:

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### ***Use the A.P.E. strategy to complete these questions.***

1. The two political systems supported by Stalin and Hitler were almost direct opposites of one another. What is the difference between communism and fascism?  
*HINT: Think about the different ideas each system considers most important.*

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2. Which leaders formed the Axis powers? (List as much as you can using the text and what you already know.) Which leaders formed the Allied powers?

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3. Which leaders formed the Allied powers? (List as much as you can using the text and what you already know.)

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Name:

Period

Date:

**Beyond the text:**

1. Even though Hitler and Stalin were both dictators, they were in opposition of each other. **Use evidence from the text** to explain this idea. Be sure to also explain why you think these men ended up conflicted – use what you know about dictators.

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2. Stalin's ruthless "purging" was inhumane, but in the end it led him to success. Use **evidence from the text** to explain two ways in which Stalin found success.

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